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FARM LABOR REPORT

1958

MONTANA
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ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PROCESSING REPORT

ES-225 1958

MONTANA

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I. ANNUAL SUMMARY

PLANNING

A. Administrative Organization

The administrative organization of the Farm Placement Division of the Montana State Employment Service was unchanged during the year. This includes a Chief of Farm Placement and a secretary in the Central Office and designated farm placement representatives working under the direction and control of the local office manager in each local office.

The designated farm placement representative serves as functional supervisor in a fully intergrated farm placement service, assisting local office managers in specialized planning on agricultural placement and advising him on the progress of the function. Practically every local office in the state has some period during the year when agricultural labor demands become a primary placement objective so that a considerable portion of the resources of every local office, at sometime or other, is devoted to the agricultural function.

B. Pre-Season and In-Season Meetings

Meetings were held with representatives of the sugar beet growers in two growing districts to plan for recruitment of sugar beet labor. Area meetings of local office personnel with similar agricultural economy were arranged but cancelled due to transportation difficulties.

The problems of proper distribution of 369's of crews recruited for the Yellowstone beet growing area, which extends into North Dakota, was discussed by meeting of Montana and North Dakota personnel to arrange for proper exchange of information on validation of 369's.

The arrangement by which the Colorado agency furnishes recruiters to fill the orders of a Montana processor during their recruitment period in Texas was continued and resulted in the referral of the bulk of the migratory crew labor which migrated into this state during the season.

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

During the year, agricultural reporting areas were re-delineated so that the major agricultural reporting area includes 40 of the states counties in four reporting areas, rather than 23 counties.

The revised reporting areas give better representation to the economically pre-dominating small grains and livestock production while including adequate coverage of all other crop activities.

Area 9-27.01

This area encountered no unusual problems as far as weather, marketing conditions, or crop changes. The area includes practically all of the state's fruit production, significant production of sugar beets and potatoes, dairy products and feed grains but is essentially a livestock producing area. Principal crops produced are on irrigated ground and there were adequate supplies of irrigation water with substantial rain-fall and good growing weather so that most crops and range conditions were very good to excellent throughout the year.

Reductions in prices on berries and apple crops were more than offset by increased production. A substantial labor shortage existed only in the sugar beet thinning and hoeing operations. These were relieved by use of Mexican Nationals when sufficient local and domestic workers could not be obtained. Sugar beet operations in this area normally obtain the major portion of the domestic workers employed through recruitment in Arizona. Despite intensive efforts, only approximately 50% as many domestic workers were available as in the previous two years. Despite the reduced in-migration of interstate domestic workers the number of Nationals were held at the same level as the previous season. This was possible due to:

1. Increased willingness of local workers to perform stoop labor;

2. Increased opportunity for use of mechanized thinners;

3. A longer season permitting staggered planting and extending the period during which the crop was ready for thinning;

4. Some reduction in acreage.

Area 9-27.02

The major portion of this area enjoyed adequate rainfall and/or sufficient supplies of irrigation water for all crop activities. Crops also ranged from very good to excellent and range conditions for livestock were good throughout most of the year.

Row crops including sugar beets, sweet corn, and green beans received a severe set back early in the season, in parts of the area, due to severe hail storms. This damage was early enough that more growth enabled harvest throughout the affected area of 70 to 80% of the production of similar crops not so damaged.

Labor shortages occurred in sugar beet thinning and Mexican Nationals were used to supplement domestic supply. 2010 Mexican National workers were authorized for this area, however, the maximum used at any one time was 1871 as the peaks of thinning in two different processing districts did not arrive simultaneously, mainly due to the hail damage previously discussed. Because of this damage, it was necessary to request extension on the duration of the employment of a few foreign workers.

Small grain crops in the area were fair to excellent one county being partially covered by the drouth conditions prevailing on area 9-27.03.

Mechanical processing was used as much as possible but in one processing district wet ground held mechanical thinning to about 30% of the total acreage thinned.

Recruitment on an adjoining Indian reserviation provided adequate labor supplies for picking sweet corn.

Area 9-27.03

A portion of this area, in fact, most of the non-irrigated portion along the Lower Yellowstone River suffered moderate to severe drouth conditions. Those portions of the area where drought conditions were severe had a fairly adequate supply of ground moisture at the time of planting so that some crop resulted. In areas where drought was considered moderate moisture conditions at the beginning of the season were fair for the start of crops and some rains were received in time to make good grain crops. Range conditions for livestock, however, were not sufficiently improved to carry through the year so that heavy marketing and early feeding were necessary. Livestock prices were good throughout the marketing period so that the principal loss to the operator was in progress in re-stocking after heavy sell off during the drought season of 1956.

Production of feed grains and of hay on irrigated land (combined with carry over from the mild winter of 1957-58) was excellent so that feed prices were reasonable enough that marketing did not have to reach the extent of carry-over reduction which occurred two years ago.

Labor shortages occurred in sugar beet thinning and hoeing despite the fact that substantially the same number of domestic workers who were available in the 1957 season were recruited for 1958. Use of Mexican Nationals in this area was substantially reduced with 270 workers being authorized as compared to 630 used in 1957.

Area 9-27.04

This area is primarily a hard wheat producing area. During the year drought conditions prevailed in parts of the five

eastern counties severly curtailing small grain production. However, the western portion of the area had excellent crop conditions so that production ranged from poor in portions of Valley and Daniels counties to exceptional in Cascade and Teton counties. Range conditions in the drought area were exceptionally poor with heavy movement of livestock to market and almost no production of winter forage except in irrigated portions of the Milk River Valley.

Labor shortages occurred in sugar beet thinning and hoeing with practically no supply of local workers or domestic workers. The bulk of the 4200 acres of sugar beets in this 11 county area was worked by Mexican National labor. A ceiling of 350 Mexican Nationals was established for the area, 30 higher than in 1957.

The trend noted in the farm labor report for 1957 of winter grain planting in this area which had been spring grain area continued, with nearly 60% of the total grain crop acreage seeded in the fall of 1957. This reduced the demand for workers for soil preparation and spring seeding so that shortages in early spring were nearly eliminated.

For the first time, the eastern portion of this area planted a substantial acreage of safflower on an experimental basis. The areas where this crop was planted was that which suffered the most severe drought.

RECRUITMENT AND LABOR SUPPLY

A. The principal demand which can be filled from local labor supply is for single workers skilled in mechanical farming operations or for couples for year around employment.

The great degree of mechanization and the type of power equipment used precludes the use of unskilled workers except on some hand operations in sugar beets and in the production of cannery vegetables and the harvest of small fruits and berry crops.

Intensive recruitment of youth using school registrations and newspaper publicity were continued in the Hamilton and Polson areas to secure; in the first strawberry and raspberry pickers, and in the second cherry pickers and packers, with local workers primarily interested in packing shed work. Picking is largely performed by migrant fruit workers who include these areas on a regular schedule.

Repeated and intensive efforts on the part of the local offices to secure local workers for sugar beet activities were almost fruitless, although, some success was attained in movement of Indian crews from reservations to sugar beet work in immediately adjoining areas.

Volunteer farm placement representatives are used in practically every town in agricultural areas where there is any local supply of labor, but there total volume of placements does not give a true picture of their value. They are basically used as liason between farm operators in their communities and as points of information and direction to farm workers referred from local offices to their communities. Many volunteers, in addition to keeping local offices informed as to labor demands in the immediate area, relaying all orders and directing workers, perform such services as securing transportation from their communities to farms, notifying farmers in outlying areas of arrival of workers and other services which cannot be measured statistically.

B. The agricultural season began with substantial unemployment in two principal non-agriculture industries; metal mining and lumber. Although summer time prospects in the lumber industry appeared able to absorb substantial numbers of displaced workers it was considered obvious that due to depressed prices, mining areas would not pick up in employment.

Anticipating substantial labor shortages in both stoop and non-stoop agricultural labor the agency presented questionnaires to 12,000 unemployed workers in the un-skilled occupations or in skilled occupations in industries in which it was apparent substantial unemployment would hang over into the summer season. These questionnaires were for the purpose of determining interest in agricultural employment without designating any particular type. Individuals who responded in the affirmative were interviewed to determine what skills they might have to offer. The return of affirmative questionnaires amounted to 12% and about 10% actually were re-interviewed. The difference resulting from persons out-migrating after indicating availability for farm work, or securing other employment.

Those individuals having recent experience in mechanized farming were readily placed and a substantial number of workers could be placed later on in the season in such occupations requiring little skill as bale bucking, hay loading, etc. The number of persons discovered in re-interviews who were willing to work in the area of greatest anticipated shortage, stoop labor, was infinitesimal with only four workers actually entering employment.

Those workers which were un-skilled in mechanized farming operations and who would not accept stoop labor could not be used until later in the season for such activities as potato picking and apple harvest.

Interviews were completed in April so that a clear picture of the needs for stoop labor in the sugar beets in May, June and July was available. Regular clearance orders placed in interstate clearance in January were re-validated

and provided the primary source of domestic labor on sugar beet farms. In addition to the questionnaire and re-interview program, itinerant interviews were set up on two Indian reservations in April for the purpose of recruiting crews for stoop labor. Approximately 50 workers were obtained by this method although over 200 indicated availability and were organized into work groups. Failure to meet their committments was primarily due to the fact that early season in areas for which they were available, caused work starts prior to the expiration of the school term, making it impossible for them to move in family groups.

Workers were referred on 369's from Texas in accordance with agreement with the Colorado agency. This source provided 1661 workers in 216 crews. Approximately 350 free-wheelers came into the same general area from Texas and 135 workers were referred from Arizona for the western area of the state and not further scheduled.

The bulk of the workers scheduled on 369's who were employed in Montana in the sugar beet fields were further scheduled to Oregon, Wisconsin and Colorado, with several other mid-western states scheduled by small numbers. Those workers recruited in Arizona remained in western Montana throughout the beet thinning season, moved into green pea harvest, haying to final haying, and hand work in beet harvest, returning to their homes upon conclusion of the season.

C. No Puerto Rican workers were used in the State of Montana.

D. Mexican Nationals were used in all agricultural reporting areas; 2627 nationals being contracted by three Montana employers at the reception center. First contracting was done on May 9th and nationals were used through August although only a small number remained in the State after July 15th. This hold-over beyond the normal period resulted from hail damage slowing the thinning period of sugar beets, the only crop activity in which Nationals were used.

Prior commitments of the bulk of the domestic workers employed in the same activity resulted in substantial out-migration early in July so that shortages requiring use of foreign workers were extended as the sugar beet crop was ready for thinning and hoeing.

Surveys of supply and demand of labor were made based upon established uses, by acreage, livestock units or production in comparison with local and interstate supplies. Estimated domestic supplies were supported by periodic reports of recruiting teams supplemented by a special survey to determine potential availability of local and intrastate non-agricultural workers displaced from other lines of endeavor. These processes were reported on ES-229 even though the labor needs in practically all other crop activities are for a different type of worker than the crop activities in which Mexican Nationals are used and there is no interchangeability or mobility of workers between these crop activities and the sugar beet thining-hoeing process.

Twelve wage surveys were made during the period covering various practices in sugar beet hoeing and thinning and immediate postings of findings were made in local offices in areas covered and at other public points.

Surveys established that rather than have a depressing effect on wages of domestic workers, use of Mexican Nationals resulted in increased wage rates to domestic workers. This anomalous situation occurred as an administrative change on the part of the U. S. Department of Agriculture shifted the eastern half of the state of Montana into a wage determination area with a lower basic thinning rate than had been paid in 1957. Domestic workers were, therefore, offered a rate which was reduced from the preceding year. However, the requirement that Mexican Nationals be contracted at a beginning rate not less than the preceding year and Bureau insistence that domestic workers be given every consideration offered Mexican Nationals contractees, resulted in the payment of the higher 1957 rate to all workers in areas 9-27.02, 9-27.03 and 9-27.04.

The same administrative change shifted the western area 9-27.01 into a sugar act wage determination district in which the basic thinning rate remained the same but hoeing rates were revised upwards.

E. It has been previously discussed how every effort was made to determine the availability of and to offer unemployed local non-agricultural workers farm employment prior to instituting any in-migration.

One local office participated in surveys in the rural development area established in Lake County. This included not only surveys of under employed rural residents but also potential production on local farms of crops which could be processed by local industries either currently operating or to be established.

Housing inspections were not made in connection with the recruitment of domestic workers. However, housing inspections made in connection with the certification of foreign workers does have a side effect in that on farm housing must be maintained to standards set for Mexican Nationals inasmuch as the individual grower has no assurance that it will not be necessary to house Nationals.

F. The basic problem encountered in the recruitment of domestic workers was the same as encountered in every past season, that is, distance from supply points of workers who are willing to perform stoop labor and the fact that the period of need offers very little in the way of intermediate employment points. This requires Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico workers to travel the distance from 800 to 1000 miles prior to entering their first employment for the season. Mileage advances of 1¢ per mile per worker has been customary in the past, but increasing transportation costs caused the small family groups with two or three workers traveling as a unit to hesitate in accepting this rate.

G. During the 1958 season the state agency made significant total placement gains over the preceding season. While tightening up and increasing the number of validity checks to be sure that agricultural placements meet all the criteria of placement as defined in the employment security manual. This is necessary as continued increase in size and speed of power tools require increasing skill levels of agricultural workers in practically all crop activities. The same increase in power and speed of operations tends to shorten the tenour of the seasonal workers. This coupled with the lack of any unemployment benefits between job periods encourages the best workers to enter other field of endeavor and leave agricultural employment.

Traditionally, Montana agricultural scales have been higher than those in adjoining states particularly to the east which is on the in-migration pattern of the best qualified mechanized farm workers.

Again this season, the wage differential gap narrowed affecting in-flow of workers from the upper middle west. To compensate for this reduced in-migration intensive efforts were made to recruit workers familiar with the use of power tools from such recession and seasonally affected industries as lumbering and logging. Inasmuch as the peak demand season for workers in mechanized agricultural generally occurs during the period of greatest fire danger we may be able to continue to shift these non-agricultural workers to agriculture for short periods of time. While this source will not eliminate the need for the migrating skilled farm worker, it may help alleviate shortages which have been common in the past.

. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
au of Employment Security
25 -- Table 1 (10/58)

Budget Bureau No. 44-R779.6

State Montana

Table 1. Selected Data on Farm Placement Operations in 1958

ITEM	Number
Section A. Day-Haul Activities	
Operated by State Agency:	
a. Day-haul points	0
b. Towns with day-haul points	0
c. Sum of workers transported on average day in each town	0
d. Sum of workers transported on peak day in each town	0
Established (unsupervised) by state agency:	
a. Day-haul points	0
b. Towns with day-haul points	0
c. Sum of workers transported on average day in each town	0
d. Sum of workers transported on peak day in each town	0
Section B. Services to school-age youth	
Towns in which separate school-age youth programs are operated	0
Day-haul points operated separately for school-age youth	0
a. Sum of school-age youth workers transported on peak day in each town	0
Day-haul points established by State agency for school-age youth	0
Supervised camps operated for school-age farm workers	0
a. Placement in camps	0
Placements of school-age youth in supervised live-in farm homes	0
Section C. Services to other special groups	
Services rendered to Indians by local offices or itinerant points on reservations:	
a. Placements	741
b. Applicant holding acceptances	6
Other placements of reservation Indians	1786
Puerto Ricans brought into State under work contract	0
Section D. Special services to employers	
Employers receiving combine services:	
a. From out of area	277
b. From out of State	713
Employers receiving cotton-harvesting-machine services:	
a. From out of area	0
b. From out of State	0
Food processing employers receiving placement services	11
Section E. Other special services	
Local offices which held farm clinics	0
Days on which farm clinics were held	0
Issues of farm labor bulletins published	41
a. Copies distributed	16,400
State agency's work guides distributed:	
a. Within reporting State	0
b. To other states	0
Local offices participating in formal community service programs	0
Volunteer farm placement representatives	187

State Summary - Employment of Seasonal Hired Workers in Agriculture and Food Processing

AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT					FOOD PROCESSING		
TOTAL	DOMESTIC LOCAL	DOMESTIC NON-LOCAL	FOREIGN	AGRICULTURAL PLACEMENT	TOTAL	LOCAL	NON-LOCAL
1600	1200	400		225			
1475	1200	275		518			
2975	1975	1000		1124			
5435	3075	2360		2062	72	72	
8633	3764	4689	180	4109			
14176	4503	7054	2619	5602			
12281	4887	6881	513	7322	625	625	
14614	5333	9269	12	6854	150	120	30
10530	4725	5705	0	3251	280	180	100
5835	3728	2107		2325			
2636	1801	835		578			
2287	1615	672		306			

Included as "local" workers are in-migrants whose intent to remain in the local office is indicated by establishment of a local address. Approximately half of the difference en local worker peak and low point represent school age youth, vacationing non-agricultural rs attracted by high harvest scales and local workers whose attachment to the farm labor t is strictly a summertime situation. The balance are regular migrants who follow seasonal ities year round considering their hat-hanging place as home. To establish definite re of resident seasonal farm labor a count of farm job seekers was made in February 1958, ding all local offices. At that time, 1200 local workers were estimated on seasonal yment and slightly under 600 local workers were seeking farm employment, or a basic adult ent seasonal labor force of 1800, including farm operators whose crop pattern permits off-work in the winter months.

S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
eau of Employment Security
225 -- Table 4 (10/58)

Budget Bureau no. 44-R779.6

State Montana

Table 4. Interstate agricultural migrant activities in 1958

Section A. Migrant contacts			Section B. Individuals represented	
TYPE	BY REPORTING STATE	WITH REPORTING STATE'S RESIDENTS	AGE AND SEX	IN SEC. A, COL. III
I	II	III	I	II
Total.....	216	0	2. Total.....	0
a. Crew leaders..	51	0	a. Male, 16 and over.....	0
b. Family heads..	165	0	b. Female, 16 and over.....	0
c. Other.....	0	0	c. Under 16.....	0

Section C. Worker characteristics		Section D. Services rendered	
Type	Number	Type	Number
I	II	I	II
		6. Total.....	216
		a. Scheduled by ES.....	32
Families.....	1384	b. Requests for action.....	1
Unattached males.....	242	c. Other services.....	0
Unattached females.....	35	d. Validations.....	176
	1661	e. Information only.....	7

Section E. Summary of migratory movement by State

Home State		Last State in		Next State in	
State	Workers	State	Workers	State	Workers
I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Total....	1661	Total...	1661	Total.....	1661
zona	20	Washington	140	Oregon	228
as	1641	Oregon	201	Minnesota	3
		Arizona	20	Wisconsin	569
		Texas	1300	Indiana	13
				Colorado	354
				Idaho	44
				Illinois	58
				Michigan	123
				Wyoming	13
				Utah	20
				California	4
				Texas	232

COMPARISON OF PRODUCTION, PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1957 & 1958

Crop	Acreage (thousands)				Production (thousands of units)		
	Planted		Harvested				
	1957	1958	1957	1958	Unit	1957	1958
Corn	187	185	183	176	Bu	3843	3186
All Wheat	4341	4497	4235	4360	Bu	81,986	100,869
Winter	1885	2413	1848	2347	Bu	45,276	63,369
Spring	2456	2084	2387	2013	Bu	36,710	37,500
Other Grain	2276	2135	2015	1846	Bu	55,317	58,701
Flaxseed	74	39	55	30	Bu	275	270
Potatoes	8.5	9.6	8.3	9.2	Cwt	1245	1472
Dry Beans	14	14	14	12	Cwt	240	192
Sugar Beets	57.9	57.3	56.8	56	Tons	891	840
Apples					Bu	110	115
Cherries (sweet)					Tons	1820	1960
Cherries (sour)					Tons	400	340
Hay			2326	2211	Tons	2992	2996

Courtesy of Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

II. OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING YEAR

STATE FORECAST

The 1959 crop season will show the effect of a change in grain production which is a reversal of the trend in the last two years. The fall of 1958 showed a reversal in the upward movement of winter wheat acreage so that in 1959, unless there is a drastic curtailment in wheat acreage not presently indicated, spring wheat plantings will again exceed winter wheat plantings. Traditionally, Montana is a spring wheat area, long range average of spring wheat acreages are about 66 percent of the total planted.

The winter wheat seeding in the fall of '58 is 14 percent below that of a year ago for a total of only a little over 2,000,000 acres as compared with 2,500,000 acres in the fall of '57. It can be anticipated that spring wheat planting will increase at least this 500,000 acres. This will result in an earlier demand for greater numbers of workers for seed bed preparation and seeding.

The peak number of workers needed may also increase during the harvest period if conditions are such that the late winter wheat harvest runs over into the spring wheat harvest.

Livestock holdings as of January 1, 1959 are up from one to three million head of cattle over 1958. Most of Montanas increase is she-stock below breeding age, so that the spring calf crop for 1959 will not be greatly affected.

Acreage allotments for sugar beets have not yet been established but will not vary more than three or four percentage points up or down the 1958 crop. The worker need will remain approximately the same. Recruitment in out-of-state areas will be necessary to meet practically the total need.

Supplies of workers for other crop activities than sugar beets may be reduced if present trends of pick-up in employment in metal mining continue during the next few months. This will require greater effort to induce voluntary migration during the latter portion of the seeding period; approximately the last two weeks in April.

AREA FORECAST

Area 9-27.01

This area is a diversified farming section containing farm units of the smallest average size of any area in the state. Beef cattle production on smaller units and dairying are the principal livestock operations, although the farm flock of sheep is not uncommon and there is considerable hog production in some areas.

Local supplies of workers will be adequate to man all

seasonal needs as far as livestock is concerned except for the use of the small number of in-migrants during the haying season.

All of the cherry and cane fruit production is in this area and it is the principal tree fruit raising section of the state. Local labor supplies, mainly school-age youth, are adequate for berries, cane fruit and tree fruit processing. However, tree fruit harvest depends upon in-migrants. Cherries and apples in the area are handled almost entirely by fruit working migrants as part of their regular pattern. Such workers harvest cherries in July and August and apples in October but are not available for other types of work.

Minor shortages of experienced irrigators have been common in past years and can be anticipated in the coming season. In the principal producing sections, all or part of most farms are irrigated. Irrigation is performed as needed creating a tremendous demand inasmuch as the need comes simultaneously on all operations that hire irrigators. Present indications are that there will be ample supplies of irrigation water so that water shortages will not affect demands for skill.

Approximately 5500 acres of sugar beets will be planted in the area. That portion from 1/8 to 1/5 the crop which is grown on the Flathead Indian Reservation will be approximately 50% worked by local labor. Out-of-state labor will be necessary to handle the balance in the hand labor phase. Approximately 500 workers shortage can be anticipated in May, June and early July for this crop activity.

During a portion of the early spring period the logging and lumbering industry is reduced in force or shut down entirely as thawing conditions make woods hauling impossible. Depending on the extent of this shut down, workers shifting into agricultural labor for the period will be adequate to take care of all other needs with a possibility of some surpluses who will go into immediate adjoining areas for agricultural work.

Area 9-27.02

Area 9-27.02 in addition to containing considerable smaller grain acreage and livestock operations has a core of diversified irrigated farming in the valleys of the Yellowstone and Big Horn rivers.

This is a one office area which includes the total acreage grown for two sugar processing plants and two canneries specializing in corn, bean and pea production.

No serious shortages are anticipated in any crop activity except sugar beets beyond those temporary shortages which

may be caused by mis-timing the arrival of volunteer in-migrants. Local supplies of workers will be exhausted by the end of April and thereafter the area will be completely dependent upon in-migrant workers. These normally can be anticipated as coming in from the upper mid-west except that intensive recruitment will be necessary to take care of approximately 30,000 acres of sugar beets. Only moderate success has been achieved in recruiting intrastate workers from the nearby Crow and Cheyenne reservations and the area is not preferred by interstate workers who are willing to perform sugar beet work as the same type of work is available at the same time in areas closer to subsequently scheduled working areas. A shortage of approximately 2500 sugar beet workers can be anticipated.

Area 9-27.03

This area as well as the adjoining area 9-27.02 includes large sections of un-irrigated small grains and livestock production. The labor supply and demand for livestock and small grains has the same characteristics as described in area 9-27.04 and demands for irrigators and other specialty workers for diversified farms is as described in area 9-27.01.

Approximately 16,000 acres of sugar beets will be planted in this area and another 4200 in the contiguous North Dakota counties of Williams and McKenzie to be processed in the Sidney plant.

About 2040 workers will be needed to thin and hoe this crop in May, June and the first part of July. Some success was achieved by the North Dakota agency in filling a portion of this demand by Indian workers last year but local supplies are negligible.

This area absorbs the bulk of the workers recruited in Texas, since it is nearest to the vegetable area of the upper middle west.

Area 9-27.04

This area is primarily a grain producing section. The 12 counties covered represent nearly half of the total grain production for the state.

Livestock production is the other main agricultural activity with livestock growers producing hay on both irrigated and un-irrigated land.

The triangle portion of the area is principally a winter wheat section with the highline primarily producing spring wheat and barley. Local worker supplies are always absorbed completely by the 15th of April as farm operators prepare

to get into production activities and thereafter voluntary in-migrants skilled in heavily mechanized farming traveling as singles are the principal source of labor supply. These workers usually work out of the Middle West and Upper Central States in sufficient numbers to take care of all demand and shortages which are rare although they do occur when the migrant movement is not properly timed to demands. Crop information is circulated to states in the supply area as early as possible to give reasonable estimate of timing and needs.

To harvest a grain crop, a substantial number of custom combines are needed but these, too, can be anticipated as arriving at the approximate time of need through information disseminated by states working in the wheat state agreement.

Livestock operations are generally manned by local workers with the exception of sheep shearing. Shearing crews over and above local supplies are recruited in Texas when the need becomes apparent. It is practically impossible to forecast what the shearing situation will be inasmuch as the determination of shearing is dependent upon an estimate of the weather situation and may vary from year to year from February to June. When the major portion of shearing throughout the area is done at approximately the same time, the demand is much greater and more out-side recruitment is necessary.

Approximately 4500 acres of sugar beets are grown in this area. There is no local worker supply and shortages of about 420 workers can be anticipated.

III. OTHER TRENDS

A. Following small experimental croppings since 1938, the first large scale planting of Safflower (Carthamus Tinctorius) was tried in the extreme eastern sections of area 9-27.04 and the north east corner of area 9-27.03. This planting was as an oil seed rather than for bloom. A total of 30,000 acres was harvested following one of the poorest crop years in the past ten in the counties of production.

The following report is from the Sidney local office:

> The total acreage of Safflower under contract in Northeast Montana was about 35,000 acres. Of this 35,000 acres, approximately 30,000 acres were actually harvested.
>
> Drought was the major problem encountered during this crop season, and was the main contributor to the relative low yields harvested. The average yield was from 500 to 600 pounds per acre. Some yields were as high as 1,000 pounds of seed per acre. The minimum per acre yield harvested was in the 300 and 400 pound bracket. The 5,000 acres that were seeded and not harvested were either plowed under because of the drought or were considered too poor to harvest.
>
> The bulk of this crop was processed at Sidney, Nebraska. The high freight costs from Eastern Montana to Nebraska make it unprofitable to ship Safflower out of this area for processing. Therefore, for the coming year, 1959, it is hoped that production will be increased sufficiently to justify the erection of a Safflower processing plant in Northeastern Montana. This will require a production of 80,000 acres for next year.
>
> It is the intention of Pacific Oil Seeds Company to hold a series of growers meetings throughout the Northeastern Montana area. The growers response will be determined at this time.
>
> Problems encountered in the growing of Safflower are not unusual. Drought, of course, is the number one problem. This is a problem for which no possible remedy can be found. Another important problem is that of weeds. Safflower is a broad-leafed plant and since most of the various weeds found in Montana are of the broad-leafed variety, Safflower cannot be sprayed with commercial weed killer now on the market.
>
> Cultivation after the Safflower plant has emerged from the ground is impossible. The plants at this stage are extremely fragile. Farmers tend to be skeptical about the feasibility of growing this crop because of the weed control problem.

Based on the information stated above, it appears that the production of Safflower in Eastern Montana in the future years will depend upon the following:

1. The ability of this crop to withstand drought.
2. The development of weed control in Safflower farming.
3. The construction of an oil seeds processing plant locally.
4. The willingness of growers to plant this crop on an experimental basis.

B. In July, the agency completed installation of teletypes in seven offices using agricultural demand and supply as one of the basic criteria for selection of sites of installation.

The instantaneous interchange of information possible during the harvest season cut from days to hours the movement of workers from one point to another. It has proven its value in the agricultural program on an intrastate basis.

Lack of similar equipment in most other states have not permitted us to evaluate its effectiveness in interstate clearance but the agency experience would lead us to believe that this type of written communication would prove a valuable tool in the over-all clearance program.

Montana Farm Labor Bulletin

FARM PLACEMENT DIVISION
MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Sam W. Mitchell Building — Helena, Montana
Phone HIckory 2-3260 — Ext. 633

Number 1 — April 2, 1958

This bulletin is for information only and does not constitute a job order. Call, wire or write before referral.

ACTIVITIES: Calving, lambing, brushing, fencing, feeding, plowing and irrigating are main ties. Weather conditions good. Some shortages of farm hands. Activities to increase within two weeks.

N: Calving, lambing, general maintenance. Wet ground limits soil preparation. Short 4 general, 1 single dairyhand and 1 couple. $150 B&R up singles, $200 up couples. Local for lambing.

Livestock care main activity, with calving 85% completed. Lambing small flocks almost ed. No worker shortage at present. Surplus of ranch couples. Surplus of single men experin tractor operations. Weather good but snow flurries at night.

NK: Activity is lambing and calving on a small scale. Weather conditions are very favorable tivity. Demands for lambing and calving will increase next two weeks. Supply to meet anticdemands.

: Calving, lambing, brushing, fencing, feeding, plowing, and irrigating. Frequent snow and showers delaying field work. Labor supply is balanced at the present time. Next two weeks ctivities. Heavy demands will continue for experienced lambers, calfers, and irrigators.

OW: Vaccination branding cattle, fencing, feeding and general repair main activities. r conditions ideal. Qualified farm workers expected to be short end of week. Wages timately $175-200 mo.

VE: Soil bed preparation should start within seven to ten days. Labor supply is meeting . Anticipate shortage of farmhands.

: Machinery repair, fench fixing and feeding major activities. Soil preparation and g in begining states. Weather cool. Supply meeting demand. $150-200 B&R.

ELL: Potato grading & general repair work main activities. Weather conditions ideal. Have s of general farmhands.

OWN: Calving, lambing, fencing, general repair and general ranch work main activities. r damp and cold. Short couple with no children. Single supply adequate. $150-200 B&R

STON: Lambing and general ranch chores, fencing and machinery repair major activities. 2 ranch hands and 1 ranch couple. $150 B&R for singles. $200-300 ranch couples. Weather led.

MONTANA STATE
PLOYMENT SERVICE
P. O. BOX 1728
HELENA, MONTANA

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Montana Farm Labor Bulletin

FARM PLACEMENT DIVISION
MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Sam W. Mitchell Building — Helena, Montana

Phone HIckory 2-3260 — Ext. 633

Number 41 October 22, 1958

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IDE ACTIVITIES: Sugar beet harvest, fall tagging, soil preparation, maintenance of fences uipment, cattle marketing, potato harvest, general farming, rock picking, plowing main ties. Weather mostly ideal, some snow and rain. Wages same. Supply meeting demand.

DA: Preparation for winter moving of cattle and sheep main activity. Weather unsettled with red showers. No shortage or surplus of workers.

GS: Sugar beet harvest and soil preparation are main activities. Some shortage of moisture. rain has curtailed all ag activities.

N: Weather very warm and dry. Potato harvest complete. No farm labor shortages.

Farm activities near standstill. Weather recently snowy. No shortages. Some surplus of rienced farm workers for other areas.

NK: Plowing, rockpicking and farm chores main activity. Weather good. Hiring slow. Surplus gle hands.

: Hay and grain harvest near completion, irrigating, fencing, plowing and seeding main activ- Weather hot and dry. Supply of labor meeting demand.

W: Moving livestock to market, fencing, hauling hay, farm and ranch maintenance main activi- Supply meeting demand.

VE: Maintenance and beet harvest main activities. Wages shifting to winter scale. Rain and this week. No shortage or surplus.

FALLS: Weather cloudy. Recent rains delaying fall seeding and rock picking activities. Hirin d. Supply meeting demand. Wages same.

ON: Sugar beet, potato, and Christmas tree harvest main activities. Surplus of potato work- Weather ideal.

Sugar beet harvest and fall tagging main activities. Wages $6-8 day. Supply meeting demand

: Fencing, shed building, and general chores main activities. Wages $6-8 day. Supply g demand.

ELL: Fall tillage, maintenance of fences and equipment, cattle marketing preparation main ties. Some surplus of single hands available for other areas. Wages same.

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VOLUNTEER FARM PLACEMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Following is a list of Volunteer Farm Placement Representatives and their addresses who have cooperated with the Employment Service during the 1958 season.

We know their communities are appreciative of the service they have performed and wish to express the heartfelt thanks of this agency for their invaluable assistance.

Mr. Frank Irvine
Deer Lodge Creamery
Deer Lodge, Montana

Mr. Charles Popich
Drummond, Montana

Mr. C. R. Metcalf
Club Bar
Phillipsburg, Montana

Frank and June Kincaid
Brown's Cigar Store
412 Main Street
Deer Lodge, Montana

Mr. Joe Arthun
Stockman's Feed and Supply
Absarokee, Montana

Steve Morin
Log Cabin Bar
Arlee, Montana

Mr. C. A. Swindler
General Store & Post Office
Acton, Montana

Hans Sylling
Bridger, Montana

George Fue
Ballantine Mercantile
Ballantine, Montana

J. F. Reynolds
Big Horn Mercantile
Big Horn, Montana

Bender Auction Market
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Billings, Montana

Mr. Ray Kallem
Farmers Union Oil Co.
Broadview, Montana

Mr. Tom Mulvihill
New Atlas Bar
Columbus, Montana

Mr. Kenneth Perrin
Perrin Motors
Custer, Montana

Deems Texaco
Custer, Montana

Mr. Joe Malek
Edgar Bar
Edgar, Montana

C. P. Emmett & Son
Carbon Imp. Co.
Fromberg, Montana

Mr. Bill Martin
Garryowen Mercantile Co.
Garryowen, Montana

VOLUNTEER FARM PLACEMENT REPRESENTATIVES

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Mission Bar
Hardin, Montana

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Althoff Mercantile Co.
Huntly, Montana

Mr. E. Hogan & Mr. R.A. Baumann
Hogan & Baumann
Joliet, Montana

Mr. W. A. Baker
Gen. Store
Reed Point, Montana

Roy Hageman
Hageman Elevator
Laurel, Montana

Mr. Ralph A. Seaman
Seaman's Elevator
Red Lodge, Montana

Mr. O. P. Balgard &
Mr. E. T. Bildon
Slayton Mercantile Co.
Lavina, Montana

Mr. Ed Castagne
New Deal Bar
Roberts, Montana

Mr. P. J. Nichols
General Merchandise Store
Lodge Grass, Montana

Norman Peterson
Roberts, Montana

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Antler's Bar & Hotel
Melstone, Montana

Mr. John Durrin
Bar-O-Bar
Roscoe, Montana

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Molt, Montana

The Arcade
Roundup, Montana

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Trail Garage
Park City, Montana

John Britt
Hub Bar
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Bollinger & Sons
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Mr. Maurice Werner &
Mr. John Cebull
Central Grocery
Roundup, Montana

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Rapelje, Montana

Mr. Tom Schauff
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Ryegate, Montana

VOLUNTEER FARM PLACEMENT REPRESENTATIVES

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Garage
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Shawmut Service Sta. & Repair
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Shepherd Mercantile Co.
Shepherd, Montana

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Manhattan, Montana

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Silesia, Montana

Mr. Ed Denke
Grocery
Norris, Montana

Bollinger Store
Worden, Montana

Mr. Fred Lane
Fred's Place
Three Forks, Montana

Mr. Howard Curry
Curry Garage
Wyola, Montana

Victor Magnus
Farmers Union Trading Post
Alder, Montana

Mr. Francis Miller
Mint Bar & Cafe
Belgrade, Montana

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Wilkinson Grocery
Cardwell, Montana

Lloyd H. Miller
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Belgrade, Montana

Fred Nelson
Nelson, Inc.
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Cameron, Montana

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Ennis, Montana

Mae Sellards
Old Faithful Inn
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Actis Grocery Store
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Danver Bar
Danver, Montana

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Liberty County
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